

## SENATE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_

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### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION to honor Captain Ron Scholz and the Wheatfield Fire Department for their successful rope rescue.

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## HERSHMAN, CHARBONNEAU

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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Introduced

First Regular Session 116th General Assembly (2009)

## SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

A SENATE RESOLUTION to honor Captain Ron Scholz and the Wheatfield Fire Department for their successful rope rescue.

*Whereas, On Friday, January 30, 2009, Wheatfield Fire Department was contacted by Jasper County Sheriff's Police for a rope rescue mission at the NIPSCO Power Plant;*

*Whereas, A NIPSCO employee was stranded, one hundred eighty feet up the side of a smokestack in an external elevator. After assessing the situation, firefighters determined the only option was to climb up the smokestack to an opening about two hundred feet above the victim and rappel down;*

*Whereas, A team of four firefighters climbed the four hundred foot ladder cage inside the dark, tight, and dust-filled smokestack setting up the appropriate rigging and safety equipment. Along the way, the rescue team was also fighting adverse conditions of single digit temperatures and winds gusting at over thirty miles per hour;*



*Whereas, It took firefighters two grueling hours to set up the rescue site. Lowering needed gear, including a harness and heat blankets for the victim, Captain Scholz rappelled the tower to complete the rescue;*

*Whereas, During the rescue a gust of wind knocked Captain Scholz off balance and he began swinging like a pendulum about fifteen feet away from the building. After regaining control and securing the victim, Captain Scholz and the victim were safely lowered to the ground by a system of rope pulleys;*

*Whereas, The victim endured extreme weather conditions for more than seven hours. He was treated and released by on site EMS personnel;*

*Whereas, Due to cooperation and preplanning between NIPSCO and the fire department, Wheatfield firefighters were well trained and prepared to respond when called; and*

*Whereas, the heroic acts of Captain Ron Scholz and the Wheatfield Fire Department are commendable. Their selfless dedication, as volunteer firefighters, to training, preparation, and saving lives is admirable and an example to be followed; Therefore:*

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the  
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1       SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate hereby commends Captain  
2 Ron Scholz and the Wheatfield Fire Department for their preplanning,  
3 training, and subsequent acts of bravery in rescuing a NIPSCO  
4 employee through severe and adverse conditions.

5       SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is directed to transmit a  
6 copy of this resolution to Fire Chief David Witt, Captain Ron Scholz,  
7 and the Wheatfield Fire Department.

